The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Hope is a delusion; no hand can grasp a wave or a shadow. —Victor Hugo.

WHOLE NO. 998. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1930 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 20, NO. 11.

LABOR INJUNCTION CREATES SERFS

The New York Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that organized workers can not refuse to install non-union organs.

The court reasons thusly: An organ can not be sold if the purchaser fears it will not be installed by skilled men. Refusal to install the organ is, therefore, a conspiracy in restraint of interstate commerce and can be enjoined.

The decision accords with the United States Supreme Court's rule (Bedford and Duplex cases) that a refusal to handle non-union stone and printing presses interferes with interstate commerce, and trade unionists can be forced by the injunction to work against their will.

These decisions shock persons who have old- said ned ideas that the Federal Constitution, outlawing compulsory labor, is in effect.

The injunction judge rules otherwise. He sits as a court of conscience, to protect profits. He is not interested in human rights, as is a court of law. Freedom for man—his right to work for any reason satisfactory to himself—is ignored by the new system that exalts property and profits, regardless of human liberty and Constitutional guarantees.

To say that workers refuse employment for the purpose of conspiring against interstate commerce is rampant legalism. Such interference is incidental to a lawful act by free men who would improve, or maintain, their living conditions.

Workers alone are denied such liberty when it lessens profits. If a plaintiff asked that other citizens be denied such liberty, he would be laughed out of court. He would be told he has no relief when he is injured in a clash of equal rights.

The labor injunction is an enslaving process that has been silently developed to the point where compulsory labor is applied in the United States. The Constitution (Art. 13, Sec. 1) declares:

> "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

This amendment has no double meaning. It should not be twisted by silky theorizing or by juristic reasoning that is intended to force workers to labor against their will. These decisions fasten wage earners to commerce as securely as serfs were held to the land during the Middle Ages.

If men care for their precious national inheritance, for their country's fundamental principles, they should raise their voice against these court orders that turn citizens into serfs.

ROCKEFELLER'S POWER SCORED; HIS OIL IDEALS HELD BELATED

New York, May 24.—Interstate regulation of foundations of the Rockefeller type is necessary for the public protection, says Dr. William H. Allen, director of the Institute for Public Service, in a 600-page book entitled: "Rockefeller: Giant-Dwarf-Symbol."

The book bristles with charges of abuse of power and inefficiency by John D. Rockefeller, his son and successor, and the heavily endowed institutions set up by the elder man for public giving.

> "The good his giving has done would fill volumes, as would the harm it has done," writes Dr. Allen. "Rockefeller represents physical power for wholesale good and wholesale evil as no other business man ever has.

"Because Rockefeller and his benevolent foundations are symbols, it is suggested that the country learn from their experience so as to get the best possible out of them."

Dr. Allen intimates that Rockefeller's aversion to the methods pursued by Colonel Stewart of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana in the oil lease case was belated.

"Not a word did Rockefeller or his foundations utter during the many years when their country needed help to unravel the wrong of stolen oil wells, and when two of their dividend architects skipped from the state's jurisdiction to avoid Senate questions about oil plunder and oil politics. Not until Stewart was cornered by a trail leading to his safety deposit vaults, not until Mr. Rockefeller must either capitalize for himself or else share the culpability of Mr. Stewart did Rockefeller, by his son and publicity agents, make the 1920 fight for high standards of business ethics.'"

As for Rockefeller's power, Dr. Allen says that printers feared to print his book and several internationally known publishing houses declined to handle it lest they find themselves without bank accounts.

STATE EDUCATION URGED BY TEACHERS

Washington, May 24.—Federal aid to States in their illiteracy fight features a bill introduced in the Senate by Mr. George of Georgia and in the House by Mr. Hammer of North Carolina.

The American Federation of Teachers, an A. F. of L. affiliate, objects to the National Illiteracy Commission's theory that illiteracy can be eliminated by enabling men and women to trace their names. The teachers are assisting in the excellent work now being done in several States to reduce the number of persons in this country who can not read a newspaper. The teachers estimate that these illiterates approximate 20,000,000.

Realizing the poverty of many States where illiteracy is highest, the George-Hammer bill, drafted with cooperation of organized teachers, provides that the federal government appropriate $1,000,000 annually for five successive years to States in proportion to their illiterate population.

Money for this work is now coming from private sources and the unionized teachers insist that public education should be publicly supported.

FUEL EFFICIENCY CUTS COAL OUTPUT

Washington, May 24.—Fuel efficiency is the leading cause for the present demoralized coal industry, according to the United States Geological Survey.

The Survey states that increased fuel efficiency and expanded utilization of fuel oil and gas, rather than development of hydroelectric plants, are largely responsible for the comparatively level trend of coal production since the World War.

It required about seven pounds of coal to produce a kilowatt hour of electricity at public utility plants in 1902. Last year 1.69 pounds produced a kilowatt. In 1928 they took 1.76 pounds. This saving of .07 pound, or one and one-eight ounces of coal, from 1928 to 1929 amounted to 2,200,000 tons of coal, representing a financial saving of $9,000,000.

SCORE LIBRARY CENSORS

Cortland, N. Y., May 24.—Self-appointed censors who would dictate to free public libraries what books are proper for these institutions, were criticised by Paul M. Paine, city librarian of Syracuse, in an address here.

Asserting that "among our best people there are many who show an extraordinary willingness to manage our thinking for us," he said, "this cause of censorship is not a popular cause," and that "a book can not be judged by marked passages alone."

MOTOR-CAR ACCIDENTS INCREASE HUMAN TOLL

Washington, May 24.—Motor vehicle accidents in this country last year proved more disastrous to human life than the World War. There were 32,000 deaths, with an economic loss of $1[illegible],000,000, according to J. H. Parmelee of the National Conference on Street and Highway Safety.

These deaths are an increase of 5 per cent over the preceding year, and the estimated money loss will shortly mount to $1,000,000,000 "unless something is done to check the trend."

SOUTHERN LIBERALS CREATED BY UNIONS

New York, May 24.—"There will be no liberal movement in the South until there is a labor movement," said John W. Edelman, editor The Hosiery Worker, replying in the Daily News Record to statements by Dr. Robert C. Dexter, secretary social relations department American Unitarian Association, which reflect on the unionization campaign in the South.

The Hosiery Worker is the official organ of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers, a unit of the United Textile Workers. The Daily News Record is a textile publication.

Mr. Edelman asks this paper why reports on the South by the Federal Council of Churches were not featured, as was the Dexter statement.

Dr. Dexter's survey is the result of an 18-day visit in the South. He urges that mill owners be approached "by intelligent persons not connected with the unions." "I can assure Dr. Dexter," says Edelman, "that some of the finest men in America did approach mill owners in Marion and Elizabethton, but look what has happened in many other cases.

"The need for organizing Southern workers is admitted by Dr. Dexter. Therefore, it seems to us poor taste for an ethical advisor to say in the next breath that the trade union movement should await in its efforts to accomplish what he considers to be a desirable social condition.

"There will be no liberal movement in the South until there is a labor movement. If this statement sounds sweeping we would ask historians to pass an opinion as to whether facts will not bear out this contention."

TAXI STRIKE ENDED

Pittsburgh, Pa., May 24.—Local taxi drivers compromised their strike that started Jan. 12.

The walkout followed refusal to accept a wage scale of the Parmelee Transportation Company, which had just purchased three taxi concerns.

Last February the men rejected the company's offer to return to work without union recognition. The vote was 1,153 to 1. The compromise provides for recognition of grievance committees and a wage of 40 per cent of receipts.

Arbitration Should Replace Sword; Churchmen Urge Moral Concepts

Washington, May 24.—National security, to come more and more through peaceful procedure in international affairs and less through armaments, geographical position, economic resources and political alliances, is the theme of a report on "Security, Old and New," presented to the Catholic Association for International Peace by its committee on relations of the United States with Europe. Security and disarmament stand together and the problem of both, the report states, must be attacked together.

Basing security on physical strength, the report states, is still the chief role, but "undue emphasis" upon it "has harmed not helped the cause of peace" and "it is high time to devote greater and more detailed attention to the organization of peaceful procedure in international affairs." The report singles out arbitration treaties in its discussion of peaceful methods of attaining security and it declares that in the last analysis arbitration depends upon "the moral and religious sense of the people" entering the treaties.

Unfortified frontiers and conciliation and arbitration treaties between Canada and the United States, between Norway and Sweden and between the Argentine and Chile, sealed in the last case by the statute of the Prince of Peace upon a peak of the Andes, are given as examples of security obtained through peaceful methods.

The report speaks of the hesitation of the great nations to arbitrate grave questions and says: "It is questionable whether public opinion is as far in the rear of enlightened principles as statesmen in general would have us believe. Undoubtedly there is a reluctance to jeopardize this or that interest by arbitration, but there is a greater reluctance among the masses of the people to appeal once more to the sword."

"There is reason to believe that public opinion, once it sees that arbitration is synonymous with peace, and that exceptions or reservations are inseparable from war, will permit the submission of even vital questions to the decision of a fair, impartial tribunal."

DOESN'T APPLY TO LABOR

The one-sided reasoning of men with a property outlook is shown in an editorial in Barron's, financial spokesman, published in New York City, which protests against the government's attack on the radio trust.

"If any one of those defendants owned a patent for any part of a radio, under the laws of the United States, it was the company's sole property," says the editor. "Holding it tight within its own control would not be a restraint of commerce."

But note the difference when labor attempts to hold "tight within its own control" its labor power. This, the United States Supreme Court has ruled, is a violation of interstate commerce.

Human liberty, inherent in man, is denied when commerce is affected, but patents, which are the gift of government, must be protected, regardless of the effect on commerce.

PUBLIC FED "HOOEY" ON BUSINESS SLUMP

New York, May 24.—"The public is fed 'hooey' on the business slump," says the Magazine of Wall Street.

"When the stock market crash came last fall, President Hoover and President Hoover down minimized the possible consequences to business. That was good policy, for if the public had fully understood what was to follow, there would have been a mob hysteria that would have made the aftermath much worse—possibly have brought on a general financial and commercial panic.

"But it is impolitic to keep on telling the public that times are getting better when it knows that they are not; every false assurance makes the people fear they are getting worse.

"The public has been fed soothing syrup until it nauseates. Starting with misleading statement in regard to the revival of automobile industry down to the President's rosy statement to the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, there has been authoritatively assured right along that business has turned the corner. The last dose of hooey was too much even for the anticipatory scent of the stock market. The 'good news' collided with what every man knows, and the market rejected mirages and bowed to facts.

"All danger of a panicky state of mind demoralizing the business world was put behind us months ago. To blandly tell men sweating in the muck of the struggle that their job has eased may encourage a few but it will only embitter the most of them. During the World War rosy communiques came near wrecking the morale of the soldiers."

OLD-AGE RELIEF PLAN ADVANCES IN BAY STATE

Boston, May 24.—A bill for old-age relief was ordered to third reading by the House of Representatives by a vote of 202 to 27. The House reduced the 70-year minimum, reported by the committee, to 60 years for women and 65 years for men.

The measure requires that children shall be called upon to contribute to parents' support before the State makes payments. It also directs the State Tax Commissioner to study sources of revenue to provide necessary funds for carrying out the act, including taxes on "amusements, proprietary articles and luxuries."

EMPLOYMENT DROPS

Springfield, Ill., May 24.—The predicted spring revival of business has not materialized in this State. The Department of Labor reports that industrial employment declined 1.3 per cent during March 15 and April 15.

DOUBLE STANDARD IS FAULTY MEASURE

Duluth, Ma[illegible] 24.—"Measuring wage standards by the competitive yard stick, and prices and profits by the monopolistic yard stick brings disaster," said Wm. E. McEwen, editor Duluth Labor World, in a radio address over station WEBC.

"This double standard of measurement, more than anything else, has served to throw the economic scale off its balance," said Mr. McEwen. "It has widened the space between what a worker is paid in wages and what he pays for the things he must buy to live and maintain his home.

"Under the present order, with combinations in control, the wages of unorganized labor may fall without affecting prices. Workers may suffer, but corporate combinations continue to pile up record profits.

"Last year, with millions of workers unemployed, these corporations made more money than they did at any other time since the peak of the World War."

MINNESOTA GAG LAW BEFORE HIGH COURT

Washington, May 24.—The Minnesota gag law, which permits an equity (injunction) judge to padlock newspapers, will be passed upon by the United States Supreme Court.

The purpose of the law was to "get" an editor who opposed politicians in that State. The act was upheld by the Minnesota Supreme Court, and a newspaper published throughout the country are contesting its validity.

The legislature of that State gave this power to equity courts and the newspaper men insist that this violates both the Federal and Minnesota constitutions which guarantee free press.

SUPREME COURT EVADES STAND ON WAGE DISPUTE

Washington, May 24.—The United States Supreme Court refused to pass upon a labor union rule regulating wages to be paid by outside contractors. The controversy has ended, said the court.

The case involved the Painters' Union and the Barker Painting Company of New York, which did work in Somerville, N. J.

The union's law provides that in these cases the highest wage rate shall prevail. The company insisted on paying the Somerville low rate and appealed to the courts.

The same company recently lost a similar case in the District of Columbia courts, which rejected its plea that the painters were "interfering with interstate commerce."

CLOSE SENATE VOTE DEFEATS DEBENTURE

Washington, May 24.—The Senate, by a 43-41 vote, waived its position on farmers' debenture for export grain. The Senators also changed their position on the flexible tariff when Vice President Curtis broke a 42-42 tie.

The House opposed debenture and favored the flexible clause. The Senate takes a contrary position on these issues. Conferences between the two legislative branches proved fruitless and the Senate changed.

The result is considered a victory for the House and the President.

RETAIL PRICES HOLD

Washington, May 24.—Retail food prices remain stationary, despite general unemployment and attempts to reduce wages. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that these prices increased slightly more than three-fourths of 1 per cent on April 1, 1930, when compared with March 15, 1930, and decreased slightly less than one-third of 1 per cent since April 15, 1929.

GREATER ACTIVITY PLANNED IN SOUTH

Birmingham, Ala., May 24.—Trade union organizers plan a series of mass meetings in the South.

Reports to various Federations of Labor conventions indicate that the campaign has already proven effective.

The cause of Elizabethton textile workers was harmed by Governor Horton when he sent state troops into that strike zone, but the unionists are not discouraged.

President Aymon of the Tennessee Federation of Labor declares the situation is not discouraging, despite powerful influences that oppose the workers. He said organization will be maintained in Elizabethton and other textile centers, and that these will flourish when the present business depression passes. Employers at Gadsden, this State, would terrorize workers from joining their craft organization. The excuse for lay offs, "poor business," is only applied to workers who are active in organized labor.

The annual convention of the Tennessee Federation of Labor, held at Chattanooga, established a record for attendance, enthusiasm and things done. The convention condemned the anti-union policy of the Nashville Banner, which locked out organized pressmen, many of whom have been with that publication for 40 years. This newspaper publishes advertisements in which the South is referred to as a place where Northern capital can find "contented, Anglo-Saxon, native born and cheap labor."

The unionists resent this statement that Southerners will accept wrong without protest.

CONTRACT DODGER STOPPED BY COURT

New York, May 24.—When an employer agrees with other employers and a labor union employes to maintain living standards he can not break that contract and demoralize the industry.

This is the substance of an order by Supreme Court Justice Frankenthaler enjoining Joseph Stein, cloak manufacturer.

Those who obtained the restraining order were the Merchants' Ladies' Garment Association, an organization of jobbers of which Stein is a member; the American Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association, formed by sub-manufacturers, and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

The contract that Stein violated was entered into between the three parties in July, 1929, and provided that all other manufacturing firms and other demoralizing practices that had almost wrecked this industry.

Stein was a party to the agreement that was intended to assure living standards in the cloak business. He was found guilty by the joint board last October of violating his agreement and was fined $250, which he refused to pay. He continued his sweatshop practices, which threatened to smash the policy of peace, and was brought into court.

FEDERAL PUBLIC WORK ON LONG-HOUR SYSTEM

Minneapolis, May 24.—The Ford dam work, a federal construction operation, is being done on the long-hour basis.

The Minneapolis Labor Review says the government has issued no rule "that prevails in Minnesota" requiring more than 8 and 44 hours a day, with the seven-day week not uncommon.

"If the government is in earnest about relieving the critical unemployment situation," says this labor paper, "it should immediately cancel this company's contract because it is violating the eight-hour law."

INSURANCE FOR IDLE DOESN'T HARM ENGLAND

> Washington, May 24.—English employers do not regard unemployment insurance in that country detrimental, says the Monthly Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.
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> "These employers, in many cases, foster schemes providing for unemployment benefit as a supplement those paid under the public system," says the Monthly Bulletin, which describes several of these plans in its current issue.

UNIONISTS FORCED TO WORK BY NEW YORK EQUITY COURT

New York, May 24.—If unionized organ workers refuse to install organs manufactured under non-union conditions, they interfere with interstate commerce, rules the Federal Court of Appeals, second circuit.

The court enjoined the unionists from refusing to perform this work.

A necessary agreement of the manufacturer in selling an organ, the court said, is also to install it. The court, therefore, ruled that the work of installation was interstate commerce.

The decision reverses a contrary decision by the Federal District Court which ruled, last year, that manufacturers were without redress.

> That court said any attempt to compel these employes to work against their will "would be a wrongful invasion of their right to work for and with whom they please, so long as their right to do so is not collectively exercised with malicious power to injure another."

The clash of equal rights is obvious and though the plaintiff is injured, are without remedy," said the court.

This decision was too important for anti-union manufacturers to permit to stand and the case was appealed, with the success noted above. Walter Gordon Merritt, well-known anti-union attorney and counsel for the League for Industrial Rights (formerly Anti-Boycott Association), was one of the plaintiff's attorneys.

In reversing the lower court, the Court of Appeals emphasized that the unionists' refusal to handle the organs obstructed interstate commerce and lessened the opportunities of non-union men to labor.

RADIO TRUST BEFORE COURT; U. S. ATTACKS AIR MONOPOLY

Washington, May 24.—Independent radio manufacturers, broadcasters and communication companies are interested in the government's suit against the $6,500,000,000 radio trust.

This proceeding is the largest anti-trust suit ever started by the government.

"The Department of Justice action is a victory for the independent radio industry," said Oswald F. Schuette, executive secretary Radio Protective Association, which has carried on the fight against the monopoly.

"The radio trust was created in 1919-1921 under patent pooling agreements made by Radio Corporation of America, General Electric, Westinghouse, United Fruit and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company," said Mr. Schuette.

"In 1929 the trust absorbed the Victor Talking Machine Company and later made an agreement with the International Telephone and Telegraph Company. It also formed a radio partnership with the General Motors Corporation.

"Assets of these companies total $6,520,864,171. The Radio Corporation of America has issued patent licenses to 70 manufacturers of radio sets, tubes, power packs and loud speakers under restrictions which give it domination over more than 90 per cent of the radio manufacturing industry of the United States. In each case the royalty exacted is 7½ per cent of the manufacturers' selling price of the apparatus.

An investigation of the radio trust by the Federal Trade Commission revealed that the trust was whitewashed by Attorney General Daugherty. The letter of immunity, dated in August, 1921, was directed to James R. Sheffield, attorney for the trust.

"This letter," said Mr. Schuette, 'retained its apparent effectiveness for more than eight years, when neither Mr. Daugherty nor any of his successors indicated active hostility to the trust until the winter of 1929."

"ROUP INCENTIVES" IS LATEST SPEED UP

New York, May 24.—Industrialists have a new speed up system, called "group incentives."

A bonus, or premium, under this plan, is paid to a group of workers, rather than individuals.

Each group is said to be a driving force on other units of the group to produce more and lower costs.

The plan is being applied in the auto industry and retail merchants are considering its adoption.

W. J. BRENNAN DEAD; WAS NEWARK OFFICIAL

Newark, N. J., May 24.—William J. Brennan, director of public safety of this city since 1917, died in a local hospital from pneumonia, following a short illness. He was 57.

He served in various capacities in the local, state and international trade union movement. He was vice president of International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen from 1908 to 1911 and was a well-known figure at A. F. of L. conventions.

He instituted many reforms as head of the Police and Fire Departments. One instance was his creation of the Family Court for the protection of female first offenders, the public being excluded from its sessions.

The funeral was one of the largest in the history of this State.

WORK OUT OF DOORS INCREASED IN APRIL

Washington, May 24.—The employment situation is not "satisfactory," but there are indications of an improvement in industrial plants the present month and a further expansion of outdoor work, said Francis I. Jones, director employment service of the Department of Labor.

Curtailed schedules continued in many major industries in April, Mr. Jones said, with "considerable business" in some localities. The bright spot was an increase in outdoor activities, he said.

LAWYERS ARE NOT QUALIFIED TO BATTLE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Lawyers are necessary in court disputes where the rules are agreed to and interpretation of law and application of facts are involved.

When social advance is to be made, the lawyer is invariably against change and in favor of the status quo.

The average laymen's admiration of lawyers borders almost on cult worship. This is not true in the case of men versed in the philosophy of law and who know that it is a living thing.

Lord Westbury, one-time attorney general and lord chancellor of Great Britain, said:

> "Lawyers, when speaking of legislation discourse in chains and shackles; and what are they? They are the professional prejudices, the narrow horizon within which their views are bounded, and their blunted sensibility to evils with which they have been long familiar."

Elihu Root, former Secretary of State and leading member of the American bar, said:

> "Lawyers are essentially conservative. They do not take kindly to change. They are not naturally reformers. Lawyers who have authority as leaders of opinion are men, as a rule, who have succeeded in their profession, and men naturally tend to be satisfied with conditions under which they are succeeding. * * * Opposition has always come from lawyers who had succeeded and were content with things as they were; who do not want practice and proceedings changed from that with which they were familiar and who had never acquired the habit of responding to any public opinion of the bar of the United States."

STATE STRIKE BREAKER DENOUNCED BY LABOR

Chattanooga, May 24.—The annual convention Tennessee Federation of Labor reminded Governor Horton that organized workers in this State have not forgotten his strike breaking stunts at Elizabethton.

The convention, with a roar of "ayes," approved resolutions which declare the Governor is lacking in ability and that a group of politicians, leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties, control the State to promote their personal interests.

> "The Governor's policy in the two Elizabethton strikes justify labor's opposition to him in 1928, and this opposition is renewed," the unionists declare.
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> "In each instance Governor Horton sent state militia to that place in violation of the Tennessee Constitution. The adjutant general of Elizabethton, were sworn in as state police. For the illegal use of the equipment of the company guards, the so-called state police to coerce striking workers he was rebuked by the Secretary of War.
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> "We believe that with such a man filling the office of governor the interests of labor will not only suffer organized labor, but all the people of the State are jeopardized. We reiterate our condemnation of the official acts of Governor Horton."

The federation's non-partisan political committee was instructed to continue the fight against the governor, who is seeking renomination.

NEGROES BADLY HOUSED IN NATION'S CAPITAL

Washington, May 24.—There are between 10,000 and 12,000 people (mainly Negroes) living in alley homes in the District of Columbia, according to a survey instituted by the Washington Federation of Churches.

Many of these homes, it is stated, are "so dilapidated and filthy that they are unfit for even animals to occupy." Efforts to have them removed, since 1872, to provide suitable quarters for these alley dwellers and Congress has legislated on the subject. Some of the worst houses have been demolished, but the majority remain as they were.

The report declares that "the decisive step in the elimination of the alleys must be that of legislative coercion."

MUST PAY UNION RATES

Minneapolis, May 24.—The Board of Education voted that contracts for school buildings must contain a clause that contractors shall pay wages not less than the minimum wage scale now paid by the city on work done under direction of the city engineer.

The clause was urged by organized labor.

FAVOR STATE USE

Chattanooga, May 24.—State use of convict-made products was favored by the annual convention of the Tennessee Federation of Labor. The unionists urged early passage of this legislation to be ready for operation of the Cooper-Hawes act, passed by Congress and which becomes effective in 1934.